

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056023

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, JM

SUBJECT: PARM

REFS: 1) STATE 38338; 2) STATE 38356; 3) STATE 45461

1. JAMAICA'S POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN AND IN THE THIRD WORLD COMPELS US TO TAKE THE GOJ'S ATTITUDES AND PROBLEMS SERIOUSLY. ALTHOUGH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND CIVIL UNREST HAVE TAKEN SOME OF THE SHINE OFF MANLEY'S IMAGE, HIS RECENT ELECTORAL VICTORIES ENSURE THAT HE WILL REMAIN AN INFLUENTIAL FIGURE FOR THE PERIOD OF THE PARM. THE WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE OF LAST YEAR'S
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DESTABILIZATION CHARGES ALSO DEMONSTRATES THE POTENTIAL FOR DAMAGE TO BROADER US INTERESTS. ONE OF OUR PRINCIPAL INTERESTS IN THE CARIBBEAN IS THEREFORE TO FOSTER TRADITIONALLY CLOSE US/JAMAICAN TIES BASED ON OUR COMMON HERITAGE OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, LANGUAGE AND CULTURE, AND ON MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

2. FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS IS A KEY OBJECTIVE AND WILL PROBABLY BE CLOSELY RELATED TO OUR WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO FIND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION, IN AREAS SUCH AS TRADE, AID AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT COOPERATIVE VENTURE OVER THE PERIOD OF THE PARM. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON MANLEY GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS IN THESE AREAS AND SUGGEST COURSES OF ACTION WHICH MAY FURTHER US OBJECTIVES.

3. THE SECOND MAJOR LONG-TERM US INTEREST IN JAMAICA IS TO MAINTAIN ACCESS TO BAUXITE ON REASONABLE TERMS. EMBASSY'S PARM SHOULD ADDRESS PROSPECTS FOR THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY, INCLUDING SETTLEMENT OF REVERE DISPUTE AND RENEGOTIATION OF CONTRACTS WITH OTHER COMPANIES.

4. OTHER SIGNIFICANT US INTERESTS INCLUDE JAMAICA'S POSITIONS ON IMPORTANT MULTILATERAL ISSUES, SUCH AS PUERTO RICAN STATUS, KOREA AND NORTH/SOUTH QUESTIONS; HUMAN RIGHTS; AND NARCOTICS.

5. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, THE MOST IMPORTANT POLICY ISSUES APPEAR TO BE:

--WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE US PLAY IN EFFORTS TO HELP JAMAICA THROUGH ITS ECONOMIC CRISIS?

--WHAT SHOULD THE USG ATTITUDE BE TOWARD THE REVERE DISPUTE, ESPECIALLY IF COURT DECISION OR ARBITRATION GOES
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AGAINST THE GOJ?

6. IN RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO INCLUDE PLANS FOR NEW CONSULATE, PERMANENT CHANCERY, AND STAFF HOUSING. LONG-RANGE PLANS FOR EXPANDED CONSULAR STAFF MIGHT ALSO BE INCLUDED.

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